

The Elyria City School District **Internet Use Agreement**

The Internet is the communication medium of the 21st Century. It will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information, and to exchange personal communication with other Internet users around the world. With this access comes the availability of material that may be illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. The Elyria School District does have a filter on the Internet which blocks much of this type of information, however, no filter is 100% infallible. The purposes of the schools are to use Internet resources for constructive educational goals, but it is impossible to control all materials on a global network. Industrious users may discover controversial information or ways around the filter. We believe that the benefits to students from the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities, exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources.

Guidelines: Internet access is a privilege, not a right. The operation of the Internet relies heavily on the proper conduct of the users who must adhere to strict guidelines. Before access is granted, students will participate in an acceptable use discussion with a school staff member. The following guidelines must be adhered to or privileges will be revoked.

1. **Acceptable Use** – Use of the Internet will be in support of the educational objectives of the Elyria Schools. Materials inappropriate in a school setting must not be obtained using school accounts. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited, such as: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.
2. **Netiquette** – You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - *Be polite.* Do not become abusive in your messages to others.
 - *Use appropriate language.* Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
 - *Do not reveal* your full name, personal address, phone number, or password or those of other students or colleagues. Do not share your account with others.
 - *Do not* use the network in a way that would disrupt other users.
 - *Note* that electronic mail (email) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail.
 - *Do notify* an adult immediately, if by accident, you encounter materials which violate appropriate use.
3. **Vandalism and Harassment** – will result in cancellation of privileges and possible legal action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm school equipment or destroy data of another user or other networks that are connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses. Harassment is defined as the persistent annoyance of another user or the interference in another's work. This includes, but is not limited to, the sending of unwanted mail.
4. **Penalties** – any user violating this agreement or applicable state and federal laws or posted classroom and District rules, is subject to loss of network privileges and any other District disciplinary options as set forth in the *Code of Pupil Conduct*. This could result in criminal prosecution.

School and District administrators will make the final determination as to what constitutes unacceptable use and their decision is final. The Elyria City School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages a user may suffer, including loss of data. The District will not be responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through this Internet connection.

Please read and sign the following and return the form to your child's school.

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read and agree with the Internet Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. I also recognize it is impossible for the Elyria City School District to restrict access to controversial materials, and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network, including, but not limited to, claims that may arise from the unauthorized use of the system to purchase products or services. I also accept financial responsibility for acts of vandalism (see #3 Guidelines) committed by my child. I will instruct my child regarding any restriction I have for them against accessing materials that are in addition to the restrictions set forth in the District's Internet Use Agreement. I will also emphasize to my child the importance of following the rules for personal safety. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision, if and when my child's use is not in a school setting.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____ Printed name: _____

I have read the District Internet Use Agreement. I agree to follow the rules contained in this Policy. I understand that if I violate the rules, my access can be terminated, and I may face other disciplinary measures.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____ Printed name: _____